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IMPARTIALITY POLICY

Impartiality is the whole point

A certificate is worth exactly as much as the independence behind it. This is our public commitment to impartiality, how we manage conflicts of interest, and the declaration of our top management — as required by ISO/IEC 17021-1.

[ISO/IEC 17021-1 · 5.2](#)[Impartiality committee](#)[Top-management declaration](#)

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Skyeblanc Certification is committed to **impartiality** in all its certification activities. We understand the importance of impartiality, we identify and manage conflicts of interest arising from our activities and relationships, and we ensure that **no commercial, financial or other pressure** compromises our objectivity. Certification decisions are made only on the basis of audit evidence, by people independent of the audit — and we will not provide, or be seen to provide, management-system consultancy to those we **certify**.

Top Management

Skyeblanc Certification

THE POLICY

How we keep every decision impartial

Impartiality means acting, and being seen to act, without bias. Under ISO/IEC 17021-1 it is not a slogan but an operating requirement, and it shapes how we are owned, funded, staffed and governed.

We continually identify relationships and situations that could threaten our objectivity — across ownership, management, personnel, shared resources, marketing and finance — and we evaluate the risk each one poses. Where a threat cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level, **we do not take on the work.**

Our income does not depend on the outcome of any audit. Auditors and decision-makers are never rewarded for granting certification, and no part of a fee is contingent on a certificate being issued. The audit finds what it finds; the decision follows the evidence.

Above all, we do not audit what we have built. Skyeblanc Certification provides **no consultancy** — no design, documentation, implementation, internal auditing or training that would amount to advising a client on the very system we later assess.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- ✓ Decisions made only on audit evidence
- ✓ Decision-makers independent of the audit
- ✓ No fee contingent on the outcome
- ✓ No consultancy to certification clients
- ✓ Conflicts identified, recorded, managed
- ✓ Overseen by an independent committee

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The threats we watch for — and how we neutralise them

ISO/IEC 17021-1 names the ways impartiality can be threatened. For each, we hold a defined safeguard.

THREAT

Self-interest

The risk that financial or commercial interest could sway a decision — for example, fear of losing a paying client.

Safeguard — Decisions are separated from sales and account management; no reward is tied to outcomes; the committee monitors client concentration.

THREAT

Self-review

The risk of auditing your own prior work — the reason a CB may never consult for a client it certifies.

Safeguard — We provide no consultancy at all, and screen every application for consultancy relationships before assigning an audit team.

THREAT

Familiarity

The risk that long or close relationships with a client erode professional scepticism.

Safeguard — Audit teams are rotated over the cycle, and personal or financial ties between personnel and clients are declared and managed.

THREAT

Intimidation

The risk of pressure — commercial or personal — to reach a particular conclusion.

Safeguard — Any attempt to influence a decision is reported to the impartiality committee, which holds authority to act independently of management.

THE SAFEGUARD

An independent committee that can say no

Our impartiality is overseen by a committee that is independent of Skyeblanc Certification's commercial management. It reviews our impartiality analysis, monitors for emerging threats, and has real authority — including the ability to require action if it believes our independence is at risk.

Its membership is balanced so that no single interest dominates, giving a voice to the parties that certification is meant to serve.

Purpose

The committee safeguards the impartiality of Skyeblanc's certification activities. It advises on the policies and practices governing impartiality, reviews the risk analysis and the effectiveness of the safeguards applied, and provides an independent check on the certification-decision function.

Independence and authority

The committee operates independently of Skyeblanc's commercial and operational management. It has access to the information it needs to discharge its role, including impartiality risk records, complaints and appeals data, and the outcome of internal audits. Where the committee concludes that impartiality is threatened, it may require corrective action. If management fails to act, the committee may escalate the matter — including to the accreditation body — and that escalation right cannot be overridden by Skyeblanc management.

Appointment criteria

Members are appointed for their competence and their ability to represent an interest without being dominated by it. Appointment requires a declaration of interests; anyone whose interests would prevent balanced participation is not appointed. Members serve a defined term, may be reappointed, and may be removed for non-participation or for an undisclosed conflict of interest.

Conflict-of-interest controls

Interests are declared on appointment and re-declared at each meeting. A member with an interest in a matter under discussion takes no part in the discussion or in any related recommendation, and this is recorded. No member

may take part in a matter concerning an organisation to which they have provided consultancy, or in which they hold a financial or governance interest.

Review frequency and records

The committee meets at least annually, and additionally where an impartiality matter requires it. Meetings are minuted; decisions, recommendations, declared interests and the resulting actions are recorded and retained as part of the management system, and are available to the accreditation body on request.

BALANCED REPRESENTATION

- Certified organisations

- Users of certified products & services

- Industry & professional associations

- Regulatory & public-interest voices

- Independent technical experts

Individual members' names and personal details are not published. They are disclosed to the accreditation body, and to others where formally approved for publication.